

Juan Diego Academy

Catholic Regional High School



Justice + Devotion + Action

Juan Diego Academy School Profile 2016-2017

VISION

Juan Diego Academy is a Christ-centered, Catholic learning community forming young men and women to answer the call to lead and be active participants in their Church and community.

MISSION

As a Catholic regional high school, Juan Diego Academy:

- Offers a quality, comprehensive academic curriculum
- Utilizes the latest in technology and innovation
- Educates the whole person: mind, body, and spirit
- Instills a sense of Christian responsibility and service to others
- Trains leaders to meet the current and future challenges of society

History

Founded in 2011, Juan Diego Academy is a private, 401c (3) Catholic regional high school serving the families of the upper Rio Grande Valley. Though a private school with its own Board of Trustees, the school is closely affiliated with the Diocese of Brownsville.

Accreditations

Juan Diego Academy is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department, as well as AdvancED. The school has a Level Two designation under Educational Testing Services/The College Board to administer the PSAT-NMSQT and AP Exams to its students.

Partnerships/Agreements/Memberships

Juan Diego Academy has an agreement with South Texas College to provide dual-enrollment courses for qualified students. The school has local chapters of the National Honor Society and

the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica. The school participates in athletics and other extracurricular activities through membership in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS)

Demographics

In its sixth year of operation, there are currently 102 students enrolled from grades 9-12. More than half of these students come from Catholic elementary schools within a 50-mile radius of the high school campus. About 90% of the student population is Hispanic. Slightly over 60% of the student population is female. The school participates in E-Rate, as well as Federal Funding under Titles I and II. The faculty includes 11 full-time and 3 part-time teachers, plus 11 additional professional and paraprofessional staff. Five faculty members and 1 professional staff have Master's degrees. One faculty member has a Doctorate.

Awards

For the current academic year, three students have been recognized as AP Scholars and three students have been recognized as AP scholars with Honor. AP Scholar awards are bestowed on students who earn a 3 or higher on at least three AP exams taken during their high school career. AP with Honor students have earned a 3.25 average and passed at least four AP exams. This year, 62 students took AP tests and 45% made scores of 3 and above on the tests. On the redesigned SAT, 75% of students who attempted the test surpassed the national average of 1000 and the state average of 1110. On the ACT, our students who tested this year made an average score of 23.3. The national average was 21.0 and the Texas state average was 20.9. Sixty-six students took the new PSAT in the fall of 2015. One student was identified as Commended, scoring in the top 5% of all students taking the test nationally. The average score was 916.5 with the ERW (English-reading-writing) score in the 93rd percentile for 10th grade and 92nd percentile of 11th grade. The Math mean scores are an area that needs improvement.

Athletically, all of the school's team sports advanced into the TAPPS 1A State Playoffs this past year, with three of them (volleyball, girls basketball, track & field) earning berths into the TAPPS State Finals. The volleyball team won the TAPPS 1A State Championship—the first title in school history. The girls 4x400 Meter Relay Team also was the state's best in TAPPS 1A competition. With the increase in student enrollment, the school moves to the 3A level of competition beginning this year.

Academic Program

Juan Diego Academy offers a rigorous, college-prep academic program. Requirements for graduation from Juan Diego Academy include a minimum of 28 credits meeting the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and Texas Education Agency guidelines. With recent changes to TCCED/TEA guidelines, students will complete one of the two courses of study outlined below depending upon the year they entered Grade 9:

I Course of Study: Students entering Grade 9 before the 2014-2015 School Year
Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP)

Religion	4.0 credits	Health	0.5 credit
English	4.0 credits*	Fine Arts	1.0 credit
Mathematics	4.0 credits**	Physical Education	1.0 credit
Science	4.0 credits***	Communication App.	0.5 credit
Social Studies	4.0 credits****		
World Languages	3.0 credits †		
Electives	2.0 credits ^		

* Required: English I, II, AP English Language, AP English Lit

**Required: Algebra I, II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus

***Required: Biology, Chemistry, AP Physics I

****Required: World Geography, World History, AP U.S. History, AP Government, AP Economics

†must be in the same language

^may include online courses for high school or college credit

Pre-AP and AP are Trademarks of the College Board

II Course of Study: Students entering Grade 9 beginning with the 2014-2015 school year

Foundation High School Program with Endorsement in Multidisciplinary Studies (multiple endorsements, including STEM and Arts & Humanities are available)

Religion	4.0 credits	Health	0.5 credit
English	4.0 credits*	Fine Arts	1.0 credit
Mathematics	4.0 credits**	Physical Education	1.0 credit
Science	4.0 credits***	Communication App.	0.5 credit
Social Studies	4.0 credits****		
World Languages	2.0 credits †		
Electives	3.0 credits ^		

* Required: English I, II, AP English Language, AP English Lit

**Required: Algebra I, II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus

***Required: Biology, Chemistry

****Required: World Geography (or AP Human Geography), World History, AP U.S. History, AP Government, AP Economics

†must be in the same language

^may include online courses for high school or college credit

Endorsements Offered by Juan Diego Academy

STEM Endorsement	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTE courses with a final course from the STEM career cluster • Computer science • Mathematics • Science • A combination of no more than two of the categories listed above
Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement*	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence • Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include English IV and chemistry and/or physics • Four credits in AP, IB, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts
Arts and Humanities Endorsement	<p>A coherent sequence or series of courses selected from one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social studies • The same language in Languages Other Than English • Two levels in each of two language in Languages Other Than English • American Sign Language (ASL) • Courses from one or two categories (art, dance, music, and theater) in fine arts • English electives that are not part of Business and Industry

* All students earn the Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement as part of meeting JDA graduation requirements

Advanced Placement Courses

Specially designated courses developed according to the College Board's *Advanced Placement Program* prepare qualified students to take the nationally administered *Advanced Placement Tests* for college credit. Our *Advanced Placement* courses currently include:

Course:
Biology

Offered to:
Seniors

Calculus AB	Juniors and Seniors
Macroeconomics	Seniors
English Language and Composition	Sophomores and Juniors
English Literature	Juniors and Seniors
Government	Seniors
Human Geography	Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors
Physics (I and II)	Juniors and Seniors
Psychology	Juniors and Seniors
Spanish Language & Culture	Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors
Spanish Literature & Culture	Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors
United States History	Juniors

Every student in an Advanced Placement class is expected to take the AP® exam that is given in May. There is a fee for each exam. The school subsidizes part of the costs for these exams as it is able to. The amount of the subsidy for each student varies based on the number of AP® exams a student takes, as well as their financial need.

Juan Diego Academy utilizes a four-point grading system. Full-year courses count as 1.0 credit for graduation; AP courses are weighted 1.10. The school's grading scale is as follows:

- A=93-100
- B=85-92
- C=77-84
- D=70-76
- F=69 and below

Entering the 2016-2017 school year, GPAs of the current student body range from 4.02 to 1.79, with a median GPA of 3.67.

Christian Ministry Program

The Christian Ministry program at Juan Diego Academy is an opportunity for students to become involved in direct service to both the Church and the wider community.

Beginning with the fall semester of 2014, Students are required to perform a minimum of 100 hours of Christian Ministry beginning with the first day of classes in the fall of their freshman (or first year) at Juan Diego Academy and concluding by the deadline set during the student's senior year. Because this is an ongoing experience that will be reflected upon throughout one's time at JDA, Students are required to complete at least 25 hours by the end of each academic year. Five (5) of these must be earned through service in the student's home parish/church. Students should contact their pastor, coordinator of religious education, or youth minister for help in fulfilling the home parish/church requirement.

Seniors who graduate in June, 2015 through June, 2017 must have completed a minimum of 75 hours in order to graduate from Juan Diego Academy. Students graduating after that date are required to earn the 100 Christian Ministry hours, including meeting the home parish/church requirement. Diplomas may be withheld if hours are incomplete.

Clubs and Organizations

Participation in extracurricular activities is an integral part of school life. Students are encouraged to be involved in ways that are consistent with their talents and interests. Enthusiasm generated in student activities often overflows into academic diligence. Student activities and organizations are developed based on student interests. The following clubs and activities currently serve the students of Juan Diego Academy:

Book Club
Class Officers
Drama Club
Emeralds Dance Team
Japanese Club
Liturgical Ensemble
Liturgical Ministries

Masterminds
National Honor Society
Retreat Teams
Spanish Club
Spanish Honor Society
Student Council
Worship Committee

Athletics

The school offers the following competitive sports as a member of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS):

Basketball (Boys and Girls)
Soccer (Boys and Girls)
Swimming (Boys and Girls)
Track & Field (Boys and Girls)
Volleyball (Girls)